

III. Remarks:

Reconsideration of this application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested. Claims 1 to 31 have been cancelled. Claims 32 to 33, 35, 42 to 44, and 50 have been amended. Claims 51-54 have been added. Claims 34, 36 to 40, 43, 45 to 49 have been maintained in their previous form.

No new matter has been added.

A. A statutory type double patenting rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 1 of prior US patent No. 6,706,581. This is a double patenting rejection.

Claim 1 has been cancelled.

B. A non-statutory type double patenting rejection

Claims 32-50 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,706,581. To overcome the non-statutory double patenting rejection, a terminal disclaimer is attached and is filed along with.

Claims 32 to 33, 35, 42 to 44, and 50 have been amended and claims 51 to 53 are added according to the specification and no new matter has been added.

Claims 32 to 50 are now in condition for allowance and new claims 51 to 53 are now in condition for allowance as well.

New claim 54 is identical to claim 32 as originally presented.

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C. Conclusion

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims 32 to 50 are fully allowable. In addition, new claims 51 to 53 have been added and are in condition for allowance as well. Favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further amendment is desirable to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. O'Dell
Reg. No. 42,044

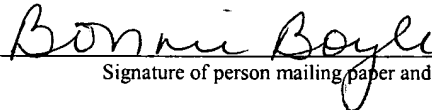
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HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
901 Main Street Suite 3100
Dallas, Texas 75202-3789
Telephone: 972.739.8635;
Facsimile: 214.200.0853
File: 24061.456

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